

suffered, these cold frosty nights to sit by the kitchen fire, while I am locked out in the hail and the rain, the frost and the snow. Sir, says the cat, had you been as honest as I am, you and I would have enjoyed the benefit of a warm fire and a dry house; but as you are a known thief, you are bolted out with the rest of your brethren. You should consider, sirrah, that honesty is the best policy. Besides the favour a person of probity may reasonably expect from others, he that is honest will always have the comfort of a good conscience, *which is better than gold, yea than fine gold, and sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb.*

X.

An Ox, who had goared a man, was seized by the dogs and brought to his trial. The Fox was judge and the dogs offered themselves as witnesses, which he refused, as they were thieftakers and interested. Here the council began to harangue, which the judge would not admit of; he told them indeed if a point of law should arise they might speak to it, but he would have no witnesses brow-beaten, or misled in that court. The Horse and the Ass were then called up, who deposed that they

they saw the Ox toss a man and goar him near *Smithfield*, so that his life was despaired of; to this the Ox pleaded ignorance, and said that he had been misused and deprived of his senses, but he knew not what happened in consequence thereof. A Bee, who had been all this time perched on the Ox's head, offered his evidence, and deposed that he had been eye-witness of the whole affair: ' This poor Ox, my Lord, says he, was taken from his friends and relations in the country, where he led a peaceful, innocent life, and put under the care of a cruel and inhuman drover, who prick'd him all the way to London with a nail at the end of a pole, and when he was lame and unable to walk so fast as the brutish drover designed, he beat him about the legs with a stick that had a great knob at the end of it, which still made him more lame. When he came to *Smithfield*, he stood with his head tied to the rails from four o'clock on Sunday evening, 'till eight o'clock on Monday night, which was 28 hours, when the anguish he was in affected his head so much that he lost his senses, and committed the fact for which he stands

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